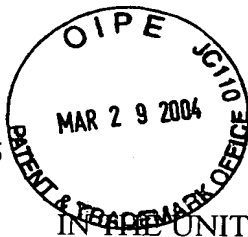


3408.68745



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joichi Bitu
Serial No.: 10/717,335
Conf. No.: 8257
Filed: 11/19/2003
For: STORAGE CONTROL APPARATUS
AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF
Art Unit: 2652
Examiner: Not assigned

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

26 March 04
Date
Registration No. 29,367
Attorney for Applicant(s)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:
(a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
(b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

Patrick G. Burns, Reg. No. 29,367

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce
(Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney Docket No.: 3408.68745

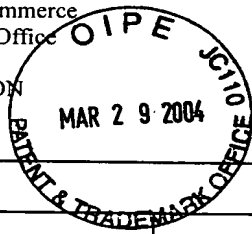
Serial No.: 10/717,335

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Joichi Bitu

Filing Date: 11/19/2003

Group: 2652



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,819,054	Oct. 6, 1998	Ninomiya et al.			3-17-97
	6,012,119	Jan. 4, 2000	Ninomiya et al.			1-26-98
	5,579,474	Nov. 26, 1994	Kakuta et al.			5-24-94
	5,692,155	Nov. 25, 1997	Iskiyan et al.			4-19-95

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	2002-132453	May 10, 2002	Japan			Abs.	
	7-20994*	Jan. 24, 1995	Japan				X
	6-202817**	Jul. 22, 1994	Japan				X
	2001-014112	Jan. 19, 2001	Japan			Abs.	
	7-160432	Jun. 23, 1995	Japan			Abs.	
	8-305500***	Nov. 22, 1996	Japan				X
	2000-10901****	Jan. 14, 2000	Japan				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
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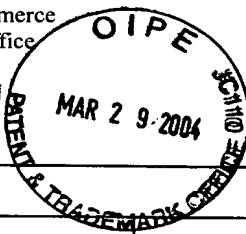
*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*Corresponds to USPNos. 5,819,054 and 6,012,119.

** Corresponds to USPN 5,579,474.

*** Corresponds to USPN 5,692,155.

**** Corresponds to USPN 6,341,332.

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office		Attorney Docket No.: 3408.68745		Serial No.: 10/717,335		
						
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)						
Filing Date: 11/19/2003				Group: 2652		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,720,028	Feb. 17, 1998	Matsumoto et al.			6-5-96
	5,761,705	Jun. 2, 1998	De Koning et al.			4-4-96
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	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	2-017550	Jan. 22, 1990	Japan			Abs.
	6-067979	Mar. 11, 1994	Japan			Abs.
	10-198607	Jul. 31, 1998	Japan			Abs.
	8-335144*	Dec. 17, 1996	Japan			X
	10-105467**	Apr. 24, 1998	Japan			X
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
Examiner				Date Considered		
*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						

*Corresponds to USPN 5,720,028.

** Corresponds to USPN 5,761,705.